

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, :
 :
 -v- :
 :
 RASHAWN WHIDBEE, :
 :
 Defendant. :
-----X

ORDER

19-CR-673 (ER)

RAMOS, D.J.:

On April 21, 2021, the sentencing previously scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on April 21, 2021, was rescheduled to occur as a videoconference using the CourtCall platform at **11:00 a.m. on May 10, 2021**. As requested, defense counsel will be given an opportunity to speak with the Defendant by telephone for fifteen minutes before the sentencing proceeding begins; defense counsel should make sure to answer the telephone number that was previously provided to Chambers at that time.

To optimize the quality of the video feed, the Court, the defendant, defense counsel, and the government will appear by video for the proceeding; all others will participate by telephone. Members of the press, and the public may access the audio feed of the conference by calling 855 -268-7844 and using access code 67812309# and PIN 9921299#.

In advance of the conference, Chambers will email the parties with further information on how to access the conference. Those participating by video will be provided a link to be pasted into their browser. **The link is non-transferrable and can be used by only one person;** further, it should be used **only** at the time of the conference because using it earlier could result in disruptions to other proceedings.

To optimize use of the CourtCall technology, all those participating by video should:

1. Use the most recent version of Firefox, Chrome, or Safari as the web browser. Do **not** use Internet Explorer.
2. Use hard-wired internet or WiFi. If using WiFi, the device should be positioned as close to the Wi-Fi router as possible to ensure a strong signal. (Weak signals may cause delays or dropped feeds.)
3. Minimize the number of others using the same WiFi router during the conference.

Further, all participants must identify themselves every time they speak, spell any proper names for the court reporter, and take care not to interrupt or speak over one another. Finally, all of those accessing the conference — whether in listen-only mode or otherwise — are reminded that recording or rebroadcasting of the proceeding is prohibited by law.

If CourtCall does not work well enough and the Court decides to transition to its teleconference line, counsel should call **(877) 411-9748** and use access code **3029857#**. (Members of the press and public may call the same number, but will not be permitted to speak during the conference.)

If possible, defense counsel shall discuss the attached Waiver of Right to be Present at Criminal Proceeding with the Defendant prior to the proceeding. If the Defendant consents, and is able to sign the form, defense counsel shall file the executed form **at least 24 hours prior to the proceeding**. In the event the Defendant consents, but counsel is unable to obtain the Defendant's physical signature on the form, the Court will conduct an inquiry at the outset of the proceeding to determine whether it is appropriate for the Court to add the Defendant's signature to the form.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: May 6, 2021
New York, New York



Edgardo Ramos, U.S.D.J.
United States District Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

-v-

,
Defendant.
-----X

**WAIVER OF RIGHT TO BE
PRESENT AT CRIMINAL
PROCEEDING**

-CR- () ()

Check Proceeding that Applies

_____ Entry of Plea of Guilty

I am aware that I have been charged with violations of federal law. I have consulted with my attorney about those charges. I have decided that I wish to enter a plea of guilty to certain charges. I understand I have a right to appear before a judge in a courtroom in the Southern District of New York to enter my plea of guilty and to have my attorney beside me as I do. I am also aware that the public health emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic has interfered with travel and restricted access to the federal courthouse. I have discussed these issues with my attorney. By signing this document, I wish to advise the court that I willingly give up my right to appear in person before the judge to enter a plea of guilty. By signing this document, I also wish to advise the court that I willingly give up any right I might have to have my attorney next to me as I enter my plea so long as the following conditions are met. I want my attorney to be able to participate in the proceeding and to be able to speak on my behalf during the proceeding. I also want the ability to speak privately with my attorney at any time during the proceeding if I wish to do so.

Date:

Print Name

Signature of Defendant

_____ Sentence

I understand that I have a right to appear before a judge in a courtroom in the Southern District of New York at the time of my sentence and to speak directly in that courtroom to the judge who will sentence me. I am also aware that the public health emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic has interfered with travel and restricted access to the federal courthouse. I do not wish to wait until the end of this emergency to be sentenced.

I have discussed these issues with my attorney and willingly give up my right to be present, at the time my sentence is imposed, in the courtroom with my attorney and the judge who will impose that sentence. By signing this document, I wish to advise the court that I willingly give up my right to appear in a courtroom in the Southern District of New York for my sentencing proceeding as well as my right to have my attorney next to me at the time of sentencing on the following conditions. I want my attorney to be able to participate in the proceeding and to be able to speak on my behalf at the proceeding. I also want the ability to speak privately with my attorney at any time during the proceeding if I wish to do so.

Date: _____
Print Name Signature of Defendant

I hereby affirm that I am aware of my obligation to discuss with my client the charges against my client, my client's rights to attend and participate in the criminal proceedings encompassed by this waiver, and this waiver and consent form. I affirm that my client knowingly and voluntarily consents to the proceedings being held with my client and me both participating remotely.

Date: _____
Print Name Signature of Defense Counsel

Addendum for a defendant who requires services of an interpreter:

I used the services of an interpreter to discuss these issues with the defendant. The interpreter also translated this document, in its entirety, to the defendant before the defendant signed it. The interpreter's name is: _____.

Date: _____
Signature of Defense Counsel

Accepted: _____
Signature of Judge
Date: